

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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TAGS: PINT, SOPN, DR
SUB: LISTIN DIARIO COMMENTS ON LAME-DUCK LEGISLATION

1. PRESTIGIOUS DAILY LISTIN DIARIO EDITORIALIZED
AUGUST 3 OVER TORRENT OF LAME-DUCK LEGISLATION BEING
PASSED BY OUTGOING REFORMISTA CONGRESS:
2. QUOTE: IN LIGHT OF THE AVALANCHE OF NEW BILLS
IMMEDIATELY APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS, THE IMPRESSION THAT THE
PRESENT GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO IMPOSE DIFFICULTIES FOR
THE INCOMING GOVERNMENT IS GAINING FORCE. THERE ARE
ACTUALLY THREE TYPES OF BILLS AND THEY PROBABLY HAVE
VARYING SIGNIFICANCE.
3. FIRST OF ALL THERE ARE THE "IMPORTANT" BILLS CREATED
QUITE A WHILE BACK WHICH WERE NOT SENT TO CONGRESS FOR
WHATEVER REASON. AMONG THESE CAN BE COUNTED THOSE
REGULATING THE TEACHING PROFESSION, CIVIL CODE REFORM,
THE ORGANIC LAW OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND NOW THE
SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM LAW.
4. IT IS MOST PROBABLY THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS
DECIDED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY A RICH LEGISLATIVE
LEGACY. THOSE PROJECTS, THE MAJORITY OF THE LAWS, APPARENTLY
WERE CAREFULLY DESIGNED BY EXPERTS, AND SUCH LAWS WILL
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PROBABLY HAVE WHOLESOME EFFECTS. THE PROBLEM IS THAT
NO ONE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO STUDY THEM. THEY MIGHT HAVE
BEEN RECEIVED WITH APPLAUSE AND NOW THEY ARE VIEWED
SUSPICIOUSLY. NO ONE WILL BE APPRECIATIVE OF THE LAWS,
NO MATTER HOW GOOD THEY ARE, WITHOUT HAVING HAD A SENSE
OF HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THEIR FORMATION. PRESENTLY

THE CONTENT OF MOST OF THEM IS STILL UNKNOWN, BUT WE ADMIT THAT THEY WEREN'T PLANNED TO HINDER THE PRD GOVERNMENT.

5. THE SECOND TYPE OF LAWS ARE THOSE WHICH WE COULD CALL LAWS "OF FAVORITISM". THESE VARY FROM THE ASSIGNMENT OF BROADCASTING FREQUENCIES TO VARIOUS CONTRACTS.

6. THE MOST SERIOUS OF THESE LEGISLATIVE APPROVALS HAVE BEEN THE CONTRACTS WHICH CONCEDE FABULOUS EXONERATIONS TO A NUMBER OF THE COUNTRY'S HOTEL ENTERPRISES. TOTAL EXONERATION HAS BEEN GRANTED FOR IMPORTATION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOOD, AND OTHER ITEMS CONSIDERED NECESSARY. IN ADDITION, THE CENTRAL BANK WOULD PROVIDE DOLLAR EXCHANGE FOR THESE IMPORTS. THESE EXONERATIONS CONSTITUTE AN AGGRESSION AGAINST THE FISCAL AND MONETARY SYSTEM OF THE NATION OF GREAT CONSEQUENCE.

7. IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE FIRST OF THESE CONTRACTS WAS APPROVED IN DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR. THAT IS TO SAY THAT AT A TIME WHEN PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAD NO IDEA THAT THE PRD WOULD WIN THE ELECTIONS. THESE ENORMOUS CONCESSIONS WERE NOT MADE TO DAMAGE THE PRD. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE PRESIDENT DIDN'T REVIEW THE CONTRACTS CAREFULLY, THAT HE WAS SURPRISED.

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8. APARTMENTS HAVE BEEN SOLD TO PEOPLE OF VARYING POLITICAL STATURE AND MANY OF NO PARTICULAR POLITICAL AFFILIATION. THEY HAVE BEEN SOLD TO THOSE WHO HAVE PAID TEN TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS DOWNPAYMENT. WHETHER THE OPERATION BE GOOD OR BAD, IT DOESN'T CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRD.

9. ONE OF THE LAWS IS THE MODIFICATION OF THE REGULATION WHICH STIPULATES THAT THERE WILL BE NO SECRET VOTES IN EITHER OF THE HOUSES OF CONGRESS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE REFORMISTAS ARE AFRAID THAT THE LEGISLATORS OF THEIR PARTY CAN VOTE IN FAVOR OF PRD PROPOSED LEGISLATION IF THE VOTE IS SECRET. THIS IS ONE INDICATION OF LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE REFORMISTA LEGISLATORS, THAT THEY THEMSELVES WILL NOT APPRECIATE AND WHICH COULD CAUSE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT OF WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR WITH THE PROHIBITION OF SECRET VOTING.

10. THE OTHER WHICH DEMONSTRATES A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IS THE LEGISLATIVE DECISION WHICH TAKES AWAY THE RIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT TO DESIGNATE THE SECRETARY OF THE DOMINICAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE, WHO IS KIND OF CHIEF OF THE MUNICIPALITIES, BUT HE IS SO ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT HE ACTS

IN CONCORDANCE WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. SO
THIS DECISION IS NONSENSE.

11. THE MOST GRAVE THINGS IN OUR OPINION ARE THE HOTEL
EXONERATIONS WHICH BEGAN LONG BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. BUT
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CONCESSIONS ARE SO SCANDALOUS AND
INJURIOUS TO THE COUNTRY THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER WAS
SURPRISED BY THEM. AND THAT THERE WILL BE A GENERAL PRO-
TEST COMPELLING THE MODIFICATION OF SUCH EXORBITANT
PROVILEGES. END QUOTE.

12. EMBASSY COMMENT ON MOST RECENT LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER
MOVES FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

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